

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended, without prejudice, to remove the recitation of SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:6. No new matter has been added.

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 13, 2006, **Applicants elect Group I, Claims 1-5 and 11-15**, for prosecution on the merits, with traverse.

The traversal is on the grounds that it would not be an undue search burden for the claims of Group II to be examined with the claims of Group I. The office action states that "Invention group II requires measuring binding of a candidate compound to a polypeptide whereas invention [I] does not". Applicants respectfully note that neither group of claims comprises measuring binding of a candidate compound to a polypeptide. Applicants further note that both groups of claims are drawn to a method for identifying a compound which decreases infectivity of a cell by HIV, and that both claim sets measure infectivity of said cell by said HIV. Applicants respectfully submit that since the claims of both Groups I and II comprise identical objectives and similar method steps, a search of the claims of both Group I and Group II would not present an undue search burden for the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested in view of the aforementioned remarks.

In response to the requirement to elect one of the following species: HIV proteins p24 and GP120/GP160, as listed in claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14 and 15, **Applicants elect with traverse the species p24.**

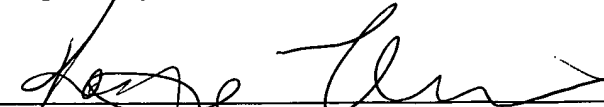
Conclusion

Applicant submits that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully request early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney/agent would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney/agent of record.

A Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently with this response. Please charge any necessary fees required in connection with the paper transmitted herewith to Deposit Account No. 16-0085, Reference No.: 9409/3023F.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 13, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen M. Williams', written over a horizontal line.

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